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MUSIC CENTER EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR SPOTLIGHT AWARDS VISUAL ARTS APPLICATIONS

Extended Deadline is December 8, 2010

LOS A NGELES (November 30, 2010) -- The Music Center has extended the deadline for applications in the Visual Arts categories for the **23rd Annual Music Center Spotlight Awards**. Visual Arts applications must be received online or postmarked by no later than Wednesday, December 8, 2010.

There are two Visual Arts categories in the Spotlight Awards: 1) Photography (black/white, color and digital), and 2) Two-dimensional art (works of art with height and width but no depth, using drawing, painting, computer generated or mixed media).

All Spotlight Awards Visual Arts participants will be invited to attend master classes and museum tours. Work by semi-finalists will be showcased in a Southern California gallery in the spring of 2011. Spotlight Awards Visual Arts category entrants compete for a first grand prize scholarship of \$5,000 and a second grand prize scholarship of \$4,000. Honorable mentions receive \$250 scholarships, and semi-finalists receive \$100 scholarships.

The Music Center Spotlight Awards program is one of the nation's most acclaimed performing and visual arts education programs for teens, offering training in the arts and awarding more than \$100,000 in scholarships annually to finalists, semi-finalists and participants who receive honorable mentions. The program is free and open to all students who attend high school in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties at time of deadline.

The program has launched numerous professional careers; fifteen finalists are Presidential Scholars, and many have joined or performed with professional companies, such as the Metropolitan Opera, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, Boston Symphony Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic. Many alumni return to the program and participate as judges and master class instructors.

Fredric M. Roberts is founding chairman of the Music Center Spotlight Awards, and Walter Grauman is creator/executive producer.

About the Music Center

As one of the top performing arts centers in the world, the Music Center is committed to strengthening community through the arts. Set in the heart of Los Angeles' downtown cultural district and home to four internationally renowned resident companies – LA Phil, Center Theatre Group, LA Opera and Los Angeles Master Chorale – and the celebrated *Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at the Music Center*, the Music Center offers the most compelling, highest quality engagements. In its effort to extend the reach and accessibility of the performing arts, the Music Center is a national model for experiences in which people participate directly through its *Active Arts® at the Music Center*. As well, the Music Center presents special productions, event and festivals for children and families, including World City at the Music Center, and plays a leadership role in advocating for and directly providing arts education in schools throughout Los Angeles County. The Music Center boasts four venues – the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theatre, Mark Taper Forum and Walt Disney Concert Hall – as well as a vibrant collection of outdoor theatres, plazas and gardens. For more information about the Music Center, visit musiccenter.org. Specific inquiries about the Music Center Spotlight Awards can be directed to spotlight@musiccenter.org.